



In Obedience to your directions, & in Confidence of the Indulgence which you promise that Mr Winflow & Morand will have for my faults, I risque the Communication of the following remarks, tho I am much restrained by the Certainty I have that every thing in the profession of Physick is known to you & them.

The Neglect of Cutting into a sarcomatous tumour which lay laterally upon the Aspera Arteria & suffocated the patient, & the success of Opening such Another tumour in the same situation Convinced me, that sometimes Incision into tumours should be made where you have no hopes of Matter or Expectation to eradicate the sarcoma by knife or Causticks, for in the case I hint at, the Carotids lay over the swelling & no one would Venture to extirpate it, but upon dividing the Space between the Muscles, Sternomastoidius & the Levator Scapulae, the sarcoma pushed that way & was afterwards extracted as it offered itself by that Aperture, a Sarcoma on the Pleura was removed by this Method, the Operation of the Empyema was performed in the belief that there was Matter in the cavity, Instead of which, a spongy flesh pushed out, which was cut away as it filled up the Space between the Ribs till the Patients Complaints went off & then the wound was Admitted to heal.

The growth of the sarcoma at its beginning is slow whilst contained in its Membrane of the Muscle, but when this is broke thro, it pushes in that direction where it has least resistance, if it happens to take its rise from the Interior part of a Muscle its tendency will be Interiorly, as the body of the Muscle opposes its Approach to the Skin, & as it is often clothed with a Membrane which admits it to touch the Neighbouring parts without sticking to it, as the Polypus, Veruca &c, except at its Origine, so that the Opening it a way Exteriorly may change the direction & relieve the Patient as I thought there was something in my Conjecture of the

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formation of a Sarcoma & the growth of proud flesh, that may help in the choice of the Means, to prevent or retard the growth of either, Ist felt it in the same light that it has appeared to me,

A divided Vessel, spewing out its contents, about its own Extrin-
sities, is lenthened by the Addition of its most sticky particles,
other particles soft & parenchymatous surround these Vessels &
become their support whilst their own Contact to the Vessel
is the Means of their Cohesion, this Mechanism is not unlike
that of hair in Mortar, or Straw in Bricks, where their Consis-
tence depends so much upon each other that if y^e take away
the hair, the Mortar grows brittle & Moulders, & if y^e take away
the lime or Clay, the hairs grow lank & loose their Extension,

this Consideration, Inclind me to think that whatever would prevent
the Insuffia of the Juices that Assist in this formation might hin-
der the growth of Fungi; & perhaps, lessen the Use of Sarco-
phagous Applications, the Ancients laid greater Stress on the
Intemperies of Ulcers than the Moderns doe, Upon a supposition
that the Corrections of the Juices in the Vessels about the Ulcers
would Assist in the Cure, the Moderns upon this supposition
that all liquors which are not Extravasated, Mix in the ge-
nerall Circulation, expect little benefit from an Attempt to
Mend the humours, which the Circumjaunt Vessels contain, & this
has made them almost intirely Neglect, Desensitise Correctifs &
& when they have made Use of them, tis as in a supposition, that
they only Act by their pressure & upon the solids, without any
regard to such humours as have not yet broke thro' their
Vessels.

if there was any thing good in this practice of the Ancients
it wants much to be revised, it may be worth while to Consider
whither remedies of an Opposite Nature, to those made use of, to
take Down proud flesh, may not prevent the growth of it,
Emollient pulvices have sometimes ^{soften'd} the tops of Callous Ulcers
that Causticks could not Consume.

I have Venturd to lay before y^e, those things which I thought have
not been Attended to, or if reflected upon to have produc'd Conclu-
sions & practices, that are Very different from what an Expe-
rienc'd Surgeon to whom I serv'd An Apprenticeship, & my own
little Observation has taught me, I expect from y^r Judgments
of it

of it to be sett right, & from yr kindness in particular, & conceal-
ment of my faults, from whoever, has not at yr desire a favour-
able disposition for I yr Most Oblig'd & Most Obedient huml Servt
Shedd Grace

Paris April 4th 1743-



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tenues à la gorge.